Eagle in nations; literature review
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Abstract: The elements represented in myths are feedback of thoughts and feelings of people that nature and creatures were main determinants of their life. In this case, some creatures are more highlighted and eagle is one of these creatures. There were gods in eagle shape and they had diverse portraits among nations. Sumerians had a god with a lion head and there were gods with body of cow or lion and wing like eagle in Mesopotamia. Mythical stories led us to study the position of falcon in nations in brief.

Key words: falcon, eagle myth, eagle wing, Mesopotamian myth

INTRODUCTION

Eagle has different faces in nations’ myths. Surveys on the remainders on the caves indicate that parts of this bird were indication of its power for nations. In a nation the eagle body indicated power of God and in Mesopotamia the head of eagle was considered as element of power.

It is necessary to point that although people of that period were simple but they had complex and abstract thought and they represented their thoughts in gods in form of animal or semi human and semi animal creatures.

In Etana myth, eagle is cruel creature that eats baby of snake and so it leaves from Etana land. In this myth eagle is despised during revenge of snake and this identity is seen in fictions by this difference that eagle tries to revenge salamander but the eagle makes fire to trap it unaware of the fact that it becomes happy by seeing fire.

Different facades of eagle led us to study it. This bird was respected for human being in an era and it is fierce in other period. We study this creature in history, myth and literature.

Definition:
Eagle is a black bird and it is from family with claws called Kaser in Arabic. It is said that this bird is king of birds with sharp sighted eyes. Eagle is called west bird since it comes from far. It is called Alveh in Persian and Qargoush in Turkish. It is bird of prey and illegal to eat and it is called bird of pharaoh and vulture in mistake (Gamus Mogadas). Eagle is black and big bird and male of this bird is called “Gharan”. Eagle hunts deer, fox, rabbit and zebra. For hunting zebra it wets its body and then rolls in soil and then flies and when it reaches to a zebra shakes its wings and throws soil on zebra eyes and the zebra stops and it hunts it. Eagle does not seek its prey but it stands on a top and when it sees a bird has a prey it goes toward it and the bird leaves its prey because of fear and the eagle takes the prey. Eagle hides its babies. The Romans and west Europeans identified eagle and employed it for the first time. Different eagles live on the mountains, deserts, jungles and around cities. They are reddish black, white and blond. The meat of this bird is illegal in Islam and since it has paws some people consider killing it and some prevent it. It is a bird with big body, claw and beak and it is powerful and brave so that the pilots have reported that eagle attacks on small planes so it is called king of birds. In ancient Greece eagle was sign of Jupiter and the Greek considered it as representative of extraordinary power and they install eagle cultured on their national flag. The ancient Iranians used eagle as their power resource. This bird flies so rapidly that it could fly several hours without stop in high altitude. Its beak and claws are strong with sharp and flexural nails. Its muscles are so powerful so that it could pick up fox, deer and lamb easily. It bears hunger and it could see movements of animals from long distance. This bird is pride and in order to dominate on its prey it flies in high altitude. Other birds leave their prey by seeing eagle. There are different eagles from color, size, braveness and power. There is powerful and fierce and fast kind of eagle lives in Alp and Perrine mountains. Other kind lives in shores and it is called sea eagle. Helianthus the American eagle recognized as official sigh on USA in the second congress in 1872 (Dehkhoda, A., 1998).

Eagle In Myths:
“Eagle or falcon mentioned in Avesta is bird that its size reaches to three meters when he flies. This bird flies in high and nested in top and it flies fast and leaves more than one hundred years.

Falcon that is called Ale, eagle and hawk and royal falcon is powerful bird so it is called king of birds due to its magnificent and holiness.

According to Greek myths falcon or eagle is king of birds and it was respected by Zeus and the Romans considered it as symbol of extraordinary power and placed its sign on their flag shaft as symbol of powerful
army. An eagle flew on head of the Roman kings and it put on hand of the kings. Egyptians worshipped falcon in the past” (Yahaggi, M., 2007).

Eagle and falcon constitute main elements of mythical creatures. In this sense, Simorugh introduced in Firdausi Shahname represents attendance of Iranians. “In Iranians myths falcon has important status and it was introduced as as messenger of sun in creation myths and it participated in killing of the first cow or sun. In some narratives, Ormuzd is likened to head of eagle or Simorugh in Avesta. In Veda literature, falcon or eagle is a bird that sent plant to Indra (god of rain) and it is manifestation of thunderstorm. Bah ‘ram or converted into a flacon that takes its prey with its claws in his seventh resurrection .In the past cities were constructed based on things, the city of Shush was constructed according to falcon shape and shushtar was constructed according to horse shape . In old Iran falcon was holy bird and it was manifestation of sky. According to Firdausi Tahmurath raised falcon” (ibid:510).

The golden eagle was sing of Iranian power and it is referred in Shahname repeatedly and this sign is seen in Roman flag.

Eagle was important status among Sumerians so that Sumerian god called Ningirsu had sign of eagle with lion head and Anzu-Indugud” (Black, J. and A. Green, 2004).

“In most of cultures and even in poems eagle, flacon and royal falcon are three different birds. Short life and high minded of eagle is famous in most cultures. Parviz Khanlari poem of “Eagle” represents these characteristics” (Yahaggi, M., 2007).

Etana Myth And Eagle:
This myth points to one of the kings mentioned in the Sumerian kings list (Mesopotamian myths: 86). The story begins with a moral narrative. Once upon a time a big snake and an eagle lived in peace on a tree. One day the eagle ate the snake baby and the snake went crying to Otto and he recommended it to do something. The snake hid in the body of a dead cow and waited to eagle to eat the dead body and it took the bird and broke its legs and tore its feather and threw it into a deep puddle and it revenged (Mac Call, H., 2010).

When Etana came to maintain found the eagle in her prison and as she wanted it to find a plant to her to give birth. The eagle promised to find her the plant. Etana prepared it food for eight months and finally could fly and she recommended it to take her to sky near god.

I take you in my hug
Your hands are on my wigs
Put your body on my back
To take you into the sky (Guirand, F., 1996)

Etana puts her arms on eagle back and they fly to sky so that they could not see no territory and no sea. The eagle says:
“My darling I could not go to sky any more
Return and let me go to my city”.

The eagle returns her to earth and then it puts her on its back and they enter to sky and they bow. We do not know what happened there but we could guess that they finally find birth plant since in Sumerian kings list a boy called Balileh is successor of Etana” (Guirand, F., 1996).

Eagle of Prometheus:
In Greece myths Hercules went to Caucasia during meeting Atlas and demanding golden apple from him and he released Prometheus and killed the eagle that annoyed her” (Hamilton, E., 2004).

Eagle in Mesopotamia:
“In Mesopotamia the drawings of animals are not similar to known animals and the humans with head of birds and lions with head of cow and wings of eagle are works of artists that they wanted to create something that they never saw them and they were imagined only in their minds and it was showing unreal his. These creatures were worshipped before Greeks” (ibid:15).

Eagle Symbol Of Cruelty:
In most of the past narratives eagle is shown as cruel. This image is related to myths and its essences. It can be referred to a narrative in Faraed o al soluk as the story of birds and eagle. In this story two birds had to give their babies to eagle due to its cruelty. So, in most of the old narratives this treat is repeated for eagle but in some texts eagle is ignorant and foolish that suffers damages but in above narrative of eagle and salamanders the eagle makes fire for revenge on salamanders and unaware of this fact that they became happy by fire and eagle is shown ignorant.
**Eagle In Great Literary Works:**

Eagle is allusion for horse. The poet exaggerates in describing of horse and likens it to an eagle due to its agility.

- When Venus saw you as an eagle in hunting day
- Saying that Harut has been released from prison
- The valiant Turak did not hesitate
- He prepared war eagle rapidly
- There was an eagle black like dark night under me
- Weaker than elephant and stronger than rhinoceros
- He raised his eagle
- And announced cow and fish by his garnet
- Swift-winged eagle

Eagle is a fast bird that the creatures are likened to it for expression of their speed. Nezami likens horse to swift winged eagle due to its rapidness.

- On the swift winged eagle
- With a sword like a whale
- He ran with guider of that convent
- That some stars accompanied by him
- The eagle of world
- It is allusion for powerful world and in astronomy it is name of the stars called Aquila.
- The eagle that the world is his prey
- It is around you like a trapped bird
- O, you that the eagle is like a fly besides you
- The garden is like a thorn beside your ambition
- O you that my poem is without meter beside you
- If your poem has meter
- Eagle of events
- It is allusion for hard and unbearable event. Since eagle damages human and it is wild so the events causing to trouble are likened to eagle.
- The eagle of event seeks safe place
- Due to fear of its arrow like a raven
- White eagle
- Sometimes sun is expressed like a white eagle since it flies in high altitude in the sky and the poet likens the sun into an eagle since both of them are in the sky.
- Like an eagle
- It is allusion for the rider of the prophet (peace be upon him) that rod him toward ascension and it is likened to eagle due to rapidness in the sky.
- When he sat on his Arabian black horse and took his scourge
- He ran rapidly like an eagle
- So that the partridge moved from its place

**Conclusion:**

In different nations most of the creatures are considered as different aspects but what is important here is an identified image of power and braveness of eagle in spite of difference in accounts of this bird in nations. Accompaniment of eagle or falcon with kings is seen in Iranian, Greek and Egyptian myths that prove their power. Although eagle and falcon are used in the same meaning but there is difference between them. Eagle is high minded and it lives short and this subject is so important that demanding help of eager for raven is expressed by subject of demanding the reason of long life in eternal work of professor Khanlari.

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